

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1074
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2003
SPECIAL DROUGHT RELIEF FUND
VINAY KUMAR SORAKE

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it has been proposed to fix a Minimum Support Price (MSP) for paddy during 2003-04 at Rs.550/- and Rs.580/- for two grades;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the rationale behind enhancing the MSP for paddy, wheat and sugarcane every year while FCI is holding huge unsold stocks of these items in its warehouses;
- (d) whether a Component of Special Drought Relief Fund (SDRF) of Rs.20/- per quintal is included in the MSP for 2003-04, as in the last year; and
- (e) if so, the reasons for inclusion of SDRF in the MSP for 2003-04 as with good monsoons no more drought conditions prevail in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) to (e): The fixation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for paddy during 2003-04 season is at present under consideration of the Government.